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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/719,354

Examiner

Van T. Trieu

Applicant(s)

MALONEY, WILLIAM C.

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed on 23 February 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 31-36 and 38-76.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance ✓
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: there are no prior arts teaching or suggesting of a key tracking and control system comprising: a storage unit defining an enclosed, internal space therein, the storage unit having a panel capable of being opened to access the internal space; a plurality of receptacles defined within the enclosed, internal space, the receptacles disposed for receiving a plurality of trackable keys; an access portal smaller than the panel; a plurality of trackable keys removably insertable into the receptacles via the access_portal without opening the storage unit panel wherein each trackable key is attached to a trackable RFID tag; and a central controller remotely located from the storage unit.

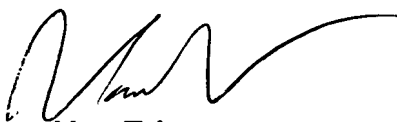
In another embodiment, an object tracking and control system comprising: a plurality of trackable objects, each trackable object having an upper portion and a lower portion; a storage unit for receiving and storing the trackable objects, the storage unit having an array of sockets individually defined within the storage unit in the same plane, each socket configured to receive the lower portion of a trackable object; the storage unit further having a local controller in electrical communication with the sockets; a central computer remotely located from the storage unit; and a wireless communications link between said local controller and said central computer.

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In another embodiment, an object tracking and control system comprising: one or more storage units for receiving a plurality of tangible objects detached from the storage unit, each storage unit having an array of adjacent sockets fixed relative to one another, each socket disposed to receive a detached tangible object; and a controller system coupled to the Internet, wherein the controller system stores information regarding receipt of a detached object seated in a socket or complete removal of a seated, detached object from a socket and allows the object tracking and control system to be accessed remotely via the Internet.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from examiner should be directed to primary examiner **Van Trieu** whose telephone number is (571) 272-2972. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Mr. Daniel Wu** can be reached on (571) 272-2964.



Van Trieu
Primary Examiner
Date: 4/10/07